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DAILY NASHVILLE UNION.

NASHVILLE, TENN. SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 1862

DVERTISING COMPRESSION A POSTAVR.)

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Aashville Anion.

SUNDAY MORNING APRIL 13, 1962.

Rlease of Rebel Prisoners. The Secretary of War has, it is stated issued an order stopping the release or parole of prisoners taken at Fort Donelson. It is known that an agreement for the exchange of prisoners was made some weeks ago, under the direction of the Secretary of War, by General Wool with General Cobb, by which all of our prisoners were to be delivered the next day under a flag of truce. A boat was sent to receive them, but no prisoners were brought down. The same was repeated for two days without success. Explanations were demanded by Gen. Wool, but none were furnished. Pending this breach of faith by the rebels all release or exchange will be refused by

How THE REBEL STEAMER MERRIMAC IS TO BE SUNK .- In the debate in the Senate on the Stevens' floating battery, Senator Pomeroy, of Kansas, expressed his opinion that it will soon be demonstrated that any wooden vessel, any large ocean steamer, for instance, can run down such a battery as the Virginia and sink her. He said if he was captain of the Minnesota he would lighten her, except in the stem, and put her at her highest speed, and run her upon the Virginia and sink ber. The Boston Commercial Bulletin says on the sub-

If the Minnesota or any other vessel of the same size, should run bows on with a speed of twelve knots an hour, striking the Merrimac on her broadside, she would sink her. As for instance, in 1839, the ship Columbian, 500 tons, lying at Damon's wharf, Charleston, partbridge, and cut it through.

tons, coming up the harbor with her three topsails set, run three-quarters of ber length into the end of Long Wharf. In 1850, a ship going up the Docks in Livthe stones pier-headed, moving the stones, some twelve or thirteen feet, and doing but comparatively little damage to the ngh in our navy to dispose of the Merimae if she ventures out of Norfolk.

The Springfield Republican says these sagacious and prophetic hints are getting common, and, since half the people hereabouts already know what the project to be tried in Hampton Roads is, and the on the subject, there can be no harm in printing the fact that the ocean steamers Vanderbilt and Arago have been armed with strong iron prows and are now awaiting the appearance of the Virginia to try upon her the experiment suggested. It is also stated that their upper works are protected by a covering of cotton bales, which are more impervious to cannon balls than iron. The experiment will be a novel and exciting one, and if it shall turn out that iron-clad vessels can thus be destroyed by vessels of superior speed and momentum, new and important elements will be introduced into the calculation of the value of mailed ships of war, The Virginia is undoubtedly ready to come out, and if she does not soon appear, it will indicate that the rebels have lost confidence in her impregnability.-Lou. Jour.

THE SIZE OF OUR ARMY .- Assuming an army of 600,000 men formed into a line, single rank, they will show a front of twenty-three miles. Should the generalissimo wish to make a rapid inspection, if he had the appliance of a parallel railroad track and a fast lecomotive, he may run down in front of the line in a quarter of an hour, and make a hasty review. If mounted on his charger, at a smart trot, it would require over a half hour. The respectable army, formed in hollow square, in double rank, would be nearly three miles from side to side, showing on each front a fraction under three miles. The inclosure would cotain about 5,760 acres, an area equal to some immense Indian corn fields in Illinois.

Some time ago a relative of Gen. Mc. Cielian's remarked to him at a private dinner table, so the story runs, and we believe it to be true, "Of course you will not tell us anything, but I suppose it gerly sought for the minute companion would be quite safe to assume that there star which Mr. Clark had discovered on would be quite safe to assume that there will be at least two hard battles fought, one in the West and one in the South, or sion of his first directing the telescope more particularly one at Colombus and to that star. It required but little time one at Manessan." "You never were further wrong in your life," replied General

Mr. Clark's Great Telescope.

Mr. Alvan Clark, of Cambridge, has recently completed an achromatic telescope, said to be the largest in the world. It was constructed in pursuance of a contract which has been abandoned in consequence of the rebellion, and is now to be disposed of to any person or institution desiring it. How well Mr. Clark has succeeded in his great undertaking may be seen in the extract below, which is taken from the proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, reported by Dr. Kneeland, the Recording Secretary, and relates to this remarkable instrument

At the regular meeting of the Council of the Boston Seciety of Natural History, Feb. 5, 1862, Chas. W. Tattle, Esq., a member present, and formerly of the Cambridge Observatory, at the request of Dr. Jackson, made some statements concorning the great refracting telescope recently constructed by Mr. Alvan Clark. Mr. Tuttle said that it might seem

a little out of place, in a society where a branch of science so little kindred with astronomy was almost exclusively cultivated, to indulge in any remarks on astronomical subjects; but as he had been requested by one of the Vice-Presidents of the ociety to make known to the members then present the result of an hour's inspection of an instrument, in which air intelligent persons now felt a common interest, and towards which public attention henceforth would be directed, he would briefly relate what he had seen along with others. Having been invited, some weeks since

by Mr. Clark, to witness the performance f his recently constructed great telescope, he availed himself of a clear evening, and the company of several members of this society, as well as other distinguished gentlemen, to visit Mr. Clark's residence at Cambridge, where he had had the pleasure of viewing a few celestial objects through the largest refracting astronomical telescope in the world, so far as he knew, certainly the largest in this country. The evening was one ed her bow hawser, and swinging with of unusual serenity. The sky was the tide, run bows on against Charleston everywhere free from clouds, and the atmosphere so tranquil as to allow the In 1841, the ship Eli Whitney, of 400 | images of stars to remain nearly steady and unruffled in the field of view. Hardly anything but the bright radiance of the moon, then verging to its first quar-jer, prevented the night from being a erpool became unmanageable and run into | rare one for refined astronomical obser-

ube, and by means of ropes and pulleys attached to the summit of the Observatory tower, was hoisted into mid-air, where a limited range of the starry heavens was had. This view embraced the glorious constellations of Orion and Can's Major. Mr. Clark at once adjusted rebels are unquestionably well informed the telescope on the celebaated nobula on the subject, there can be no harm in the sword-handle of Orion. With a far less powerful telescope than this, this most wonderful of all nobulous objects presents a spectacle surpassing all description; but the view which this telescope revealed was gorgeous and

striking far beyond any view ever before obtained of it. The most careless observer could not fail to note at once the exquisite defining and illuminating power of the instrument. Stars of every conceivable telescopic magnitude were scattered over the brilliant mottled nebulous mass, and blazed upon the eye with great distinctness and splendor. The remarkable sextupic-star, Cheta 1 Orionis, disclosed to view its two minutest members, which stood out clear and prominent. Herselfel regards the distinct perception of both of these faint stars as the severest test which can be applied to a telescope. How many of the innumerable stars in the field had been before noted by astronomers it is impossible to tell from so general an observation; but the capacity of the telescope to collect faint gleams of light must have here resulted in showing a large number or itherto unscen small stars.

The grand nebula was most admirably defined, and the numerous luminous ridges of its granular structure seemed almost ready to bloom into swarms of individual minute stars, and especially so in that part where its form assumes a kind of rude resemblance to the head and yawning jaws of a monster. Time did not admit of any inspections of the wonderful outlines of this great nebula, which are known to extend over a considerable space, and possess very great astronomical interest.

The telescope was then directed to the bright star Sirius, the most brilliant star in the whole heavens, and popularly known as the "Dog Star." All eyes cathe previous Friday evening, on the occafor those accustomed to look at minute telescopic objects, to discern the little Clellant Clearest to take both of those stranger hovering close within the dazwithout striking a blow at them | zling rays of the brilliant Sirius, and al-Who event showed | most exactly following it in right ascenhe had laid his plans and how sion. Its minute, tremulous light, when he unispated his business, once caught by the eye, was easily kept

in view, and as the star ascended in alti- While the contest raged the hottest, tude, became still better seen. In point the gunboat Taylor passed up the river of brilliancy it does not differ greatly to a point opposite the enemy, and poured from the well known "sixth star in the trapezium" of Orion.

This discovery must be regarded as one of the very highest interest in sidereal astronomy at this time, on account of the connection it may have with the phenomenon of orbital motion of Sirius. But whether this newly discovered minute star is physically connected with Sirius or whether its proximity to that star results solely from the small angle another attack on our centre, and made under which it appears, and the smaller star is far more remote, or even still much nearer us than Sirius, remains to be determined. The probabilities are in favor of its being physically associated with the larger star. In case it is physically connected with Sirius, it is of the highest astronomical interest to know whether it is the non-luminous 'body' which the astronomers have assigned to Syrius to account for its anomalous

That the deviations in the proper motion of Sirius indicate its connection with some body hitherto undiscovered. is clear from the independent deduction of Bessel, Peters, and more recently those of Mr. Safford, of the Cambridge Observatory. The two latter astronomers have concurred in assigning a period of fifty years to Sirius, in which time it performs a revolution round some object hitherto undiscovered. It is highly improbable that Sirius revolves round so small a body as this little star would seem to beas a centrol attracting mass, but the laws of synomics assure us that two bodies counccted with and revolving about each other in space, do revolve about their common centre of gravity, which is situated in a line joining them and nearest the greater mass. This being so, the larger star would appear to describe an orbit round the common centre of gravity. Further observation and calculation will be necessary to make

out the true character of this little star. From so slight an examination of this great telescope it would be impossible to declare its highest capacity, or the limit

beyond which it becomes powerless.

Mr. Tuttle closed his remarks, saying that it was a matter of just national and individual pride that our countryman, struggling against adverse circumstances, had at length rivalled the best opticians abroad, and had succeeded in building so noblean instrument.

CARO, April 10.—The correspondent of the Cincinnati Times gives the following account of the Pitt sburg battle:

Our forces were stationed in the form The giant object glass, twenty-three of a semicircle—the right resting on a feet local length, and eighteen inches in point north of Cramp's Landing, our cenof a semicircle—the right resting on a ship. We believe there is tact and skill diameter, was placed in a temporary | tre being in front of the Union road, Hamburg, four miles north of Pittaburg At twe o'clock on the morning of the

ith, four hundred men from Prentiss's Division were attacked by the enmey, half a mile in advance of our lines. Our men fell back on the Twenty-fifth Missouri, swiftly pursued by the enemy. The advance of the rebels reached Col.

Peabody's Brigade just as the long roll was being sounded and the men were falling into line. Resistance was but short, and they retreated, under a galling fire, until they reached our lines, the Second Division.

At six o'clock the attack had become general along the entire front of our lines. The enemy, in large force, drove in the pickets of Gen. Sherman's Division, and fell, with a vengeance, on the Fortyeighth, Seventieth, and Seventy-second

These troops was never before in action, and being so unexpectedly attacked made as able resistance as possible, but were in common with the forces of General Prentiss forced to seek support on boats immediately in their rear. At ten o'clock the entire line on both sides was fully engaged. The roar of cannon and musketry was without intermission from the main centre to the point extending. half way down the left wing The rebels made a desperate charge on

Fourteenth Ohio hattery, and it not being sufficiently sustained by infantry fell into their hands. Another severe fight occurred for the possession of the Fifth Ohio battery, and three of its guns were taken by the enemy. By eleven o'clock a number of commanders of regiments had faller, and in some cases not a single field officer remained. Yet the fighting continued with an earnestness which showed that the contest on both sides was for death or victory. Foot by foot the ground was contested, and finding it impossible to drive back our center the enemy slackened their fire and made a vigorous effort on our left wing, endeavoring to outflank it and drive it to the river bank.

This wing was under the command of General Hurlbut, and composed of the Fourteenth, Thirty-second, Forty-fourth, and Fifty-seventh Indiana, and the Twenty-first, and Eighteenth Illinois. fronting its entire line, however, were the Fifty-fourth, Fifty-seventh, and Sevnty-seventh Ohio, and the Fifth Ohio avalry of Sherman's division.

For nearly two hours a sheet of fire blazed from both columns, the rebels fighting with a valor that was only equaled by those contending with them.

in a broadside from her immense guns, greatly aiding in forcing back the enemy. Up to 3 o'clock the battle raged with a fury that defies description.

The rebels had found every attempt to break our lines unavailable. They had strived to drive in our main column, and finding that impossible, had turned all their strength upon our left wing. another attack on our centre, and made every effort to rout our forces before reinforcements, which had been sent for, should come up.

At 5 o'clock there was a short cessation in the firing of the enemy, and their lines falling back on their centre for nearly half a mile, then suddenly wheeled, and again threw their centre force upon our left wing, determined to make a final-struggle in that quarter, but the gunboats Tyler and Lexington poured in their shot thick and fast with terrible

Meantime, General Wallace, who had taken a circuitous route from Crump's Landing, appeared suddenly on the enemy's right wing. In the face of this combination of circumstances, the rebels felt that their enterprise for the day was a failure, and, as night was approaching, fell back until they reached an advantageous position somewhat in the rear, yet occupying the main road to Corinth. The gunboats continued to send their shell after them until they were out of range, and, after a waried watching of several hours of intense anxiety, the advance regiments of Gen. Buell's army appeared on the opposite bank of the river, and the work of crossing the river began.

The Thirty-sixth Indiana and the Sixth Ohio, being first to cross, were followed by the main portions of General Nelson's and Bruce's divisions. Cheer after cheer greeted their arrival, and they were immediately sent to the advance, where they rested on their arms for the

All night long steamers were engaged in bringing Buell's forces across the river. and when daylight broke in, it was evident that the rebels too, had been strongly einforced.

The battle was opened by the rebels at o'clock from the Corinth road, and in half an hour extended along the whole line. At 9 o'clock the sound of artil-lery and musketry fully equalled that of the previous day: The enemy was met by the reinforcements, and the still unwearied soldiers of yesterday with an energy that they certainly could not have

It became evident that the enemy were avoiding the extreme of our left wing, and endeavoring with perseverance and determination to find some weak point by which to turn our force. They left one point but to return to it immediately and then as suddenly they would, by some masterly stroke of Generalship, direct the most vigorous attack upon some division where they fancied they would not be expected, but the fire of our lines was as steady as clock-work, and it soon became evident that the enemy considered the task they had undertaken a hopeless one.

Further reinforcements now began to arrive and take position on the right of the main centre, under Gens. Wallace, Grant, Buell, Nelson, Sherman, and Crittenden, who were everywhere present directing the movements for a new stroke on the enemy. Suddenly both wings of our army were turned upon the enemy with the intention of driving them into an extensive ravine. At the same time a powerful battery was placed in an open field, which poured colley after volley of cannister into the rebel ranks. At half past cleven the par of the battle shook the earth. The Union guns were fired with all the energy that the prospect of an enemy's defeat inspired, while the rebels' fire was not so vigorous, and they evinced a desire to retire.

They finally fell back slowly, keeping up the fire from their artillery and musketry along their whole column as they retreated. They wont in excellent order, battling at every advantageous point, and delivering their fire with considerable effect, but from all the divisions of our lines they were closely pursued, a galling fire being kept upon their rear.

The enemy had now been driven by rond our former lines, and were in full etreat for Corinth, pursued by our cav-

The forces engaged on both sides in this days' battle are estimated at about 70,000 each.

SNOW AT THE NORTH .- The Manchester N. H.) American says that the snow in north ern Vermont and New Hampshire is of great pepth. In Peacham (Vt.) the people are sing their chamber windows for doors, and the orchards are as buried that the tops of the trees appear like bushes, the uppermoss twigs only coming above the snow. One drin in Troy has been tunnelled for a disance of over hity rade, and loads of hey wood, Ac., possthrough Indiewport a large drift was excavated, so us to make a room slavy feet by f rty, and eighteen feet high in the center. In this room a festival was head, one handred and eights ladies and gentle-men being present. Two large tables were by twelve hynging lamps. - Boxon Journal, received in the Confederate service. pread, and the snew palace was illuminated

Terrible Explosion and Less of Life. We take the following from the Philadelphia Bulletin of Saturday evening:

Our readers who heard the fire bells

ring between eight and nine o'cleck this morning had no idea that just at that time a terrible explosion had taken place in the Southern part of the city, and that a number of men and women had been killed as terribly and suddenly as if they had been blown from the mouth of a cannon. The explosion took place at the corner of Tenth and Reed streets, and just above the junction of the Passayunk road. The fire works and cartridge manufactory of Mr. Samuel Jackson was blown up in some, as yet, unaccountable manner, the edifice taking fire and in a short time leaving only a few ruins. The building was a one-story frame, located on a lot about one hundred feet square. The edifice itself was about fifty feet square. Mr. Jackson was engaged in filling a heavy order for cartridges for the United States Government, and he had about fifty girls and about twenty-four men working for him. The effects of the explosion were terrible. The edifice was scattered in ruins; at least four or five of the work people were killed instantly, and two or three of them were blown to minute fragments. The heads of three persons, a number of arms, and numerous parts of bodies were found around the immediate vicinity of the factory. The police and citizens immediately rendered all the aid possible. The dead and wounded were carried out and placed in varous neighboring dwellings, drug stores, etc., while some of the injured were taken to the Pennsylvania Hospital. Although there were no buildings immediately contiguous to the factory, the ex-plosion did much damage to the surrounding property.

DESPAIRING CALL FOR TROOPS .- The following call appears in the most prominent place in the Paulding (Miss.) Clarion. It is cet in double-leaded small ploa, and betrays the continued defeats of the rebels:

"A meeting will be held in Paulting on Monday for the purpose of forming a volunanonay for the purpose of forming a volun-teer company to be tendered to the govern-ment under the late call for troops. Rev. D. B. Bestor is expected to be preant and deliver an address. The men of this county need no urging now to cause them to turn out and fill up the ranks of this company promptly. The time is at hand when every man able to shoulder a gun has to go. The enemy is at our doors, and reverses are evedo, and do at once, or our; L. Isdeau, an we are hopelessly fost."

OCCUPATION, OF WASHINGTON, N. C .- Concerning the occupation of Washington, the Express says: "On Friday last three hundred Unionists landed from their gan boats at Washington, N. C., and, headed by a band of music, marched through the town, playing Hall Columbia and waving the Stars and Stripes at a lively rate. The few people who had remained in the place since the fail of Newbern received them with marked coolness. The people, we hear, are purning their cotton and turpentine in all directions. For miles and miles, our informant states, immense columns of dense black smoke are ascending to the heavens and darkening the skies. Capt. Sutter, who was taken prisoner at Hutteras, and suffered a long confinement at Fort Warren, gathered all his cotton into a pile, surrounded it by all the turpentine he pos-essed, and then with his own hand applied

AWYUL "TRAGEOY" AT DECATUR -- The Decatur (Ill.) papers state that on last Saturday the body of Mrs. Martha Phewell was found suspended by the neck from the joists of a room in the house of her bushand, Samuel Phewell, about one mile south of the "Four Mile House." A coroner's inquest was held by E-quire Steel, and the jury returned ver-dict that "the decessed had come to her death by hanging, at the hands of some person or persons unknown to them." The most singular circumstance connected with the affair was that there was no chair, stool, or anything else by which the woman could have raised herself high enough to put the cope around her neck, within tweve feet of the body when it was found. The loop was so small that it was difficult to remove, so that to have committed the deed herself she must have held berself suspended with one and while she adjusted the rope with the other -a rather difficult matter for any one but a gymnast to perform. This led to the belief that she could not have committed micide, and the fact that her bushaud bad been living in open adultery with another woman, in the same house, for three or four months, put rather a dark coloring to nicture. Besides, Drs. Axton and McMillin held a post mortem examination, and their conclusion was that the woman was killed in ome manuer and hong afterwards. These disclosures led to the arrest of Phewell, who is in jail in Decatur. His paramour is in safe keeping. We hope the guilty parties, whoever they may be, will be speedily brought to justice.

PINEMEN AND LANCERS.-Roy, J. R. Graves, elitor of the Tennessee Baptist, lately purwhich he informs his patrons that, owing to the sudden and unexpected fall of Nashville, he was anable to move any of his prasses. type, or paper, and that the publication of the Baptiet will be suspended for the bes-en probably till the termination of the way. Mr. Graves also announces his purpose of entering the military service, proposing to raise a legion, battalion or com-pany of pikemen or lancars so sion as President Davis announces that such will be

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OVERLAND FOR PARTY OF STREET